

# Robertson News



Mrs. Courtney, *Editor*

**Principal: Mr. Wolf**  
**Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer**

**November, 2015**  
**Volume 11, Issue 3**

## Message From the Principal's Desk

We are all concerned about safety, both at school and at home. October was Fire Safety Month and firefighters from the Eighth Utilities District came to Robertson to emphasize the importance of fire safety to our children. They also gave the students important information about what to do in any kind of emergency.

We hold regular fire drills and lockdown drills so we know what to do in the event of an emergency at school. We talk about emergency procedures and do the best we can to make sure everyone is prepared.

Another area where safety is always emphasized is when students walk to and from school. During the first week of school we sent a letter home to all of our families reviewing safety precautions that we felt were important for all students and parents to remember. Sometimes as we get involved in the busy daily routines of school and work, these precautions are forgotten. Here is a reminder:

- \* **Do not talk to strangers or get into strange vehicles.**
- \* If you are a bus student, be sure to stand well back from the street while waiting at the bus stop.
- \* Always follow all of the bus safety rules. When walking to or from school, walk with a buddy.
- \* Look both ways before crossing streets.

- \* Cross the street where there is a crossing guard. (Parents, please emphasize to your children how dangerous it is to cross Oakland St. without using the crossing guard.)
- \* Do not take "shortcuts" to school. Cutting through the woods can be very dangerous if an accident should occur.
- \* Walk directly to school and directly home. Do not take detours or stop at stores.
- \* Regular reminders both at school and at home will help keep our children safe.



### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day.** Please get out and vote! This is also a Professional Development Day for teachers. There is no school.

**Wednesday, November 11, school is closed in honor of Veterans' Day.** This holiday honors all of the veterans of our armed services who have protected our freedom throughout our nation's history, and continue to do so today.



## Message From the Principal's Desk

**Wednesday, November 25** is an **early dismissal day** due to the Thanksgiving holiday. School is dismissed at 1:17 p.m.

**Thursday, November 26** is **Thanksgiving Day**. School is closed. School is also closed on Friday, November 27.

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 1, 2 & 3** are **Report Card Conference days**. School is dismissed at 1:17 p.m. on these days. We look forward to seeing you all during report card conferences. You must attend your child's report card conference in order to receive their report card. (School lunch is served on early dismissal days.)



### **WINTER WEATHER IS ON THE WAY**

With the end of Daylight Savings Time, it is now getting darker much earlier. It is clear that the winter weather is not far away. Please remember that our students go outside for recess at lunchtime every day unless it is raining or the weather conditions are severe. This means that they need to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Students should come to school with winter coats, hats and gloves or mittens. Please help your child to be comfortable and healthy by paying attention to the weather forecast each morning and making sure that they leave the house dressed comfortably for the weather conditions.



### **REMINDER**

As mentioned in our Robertson Handbook, certain items are not allowed in school. We rarely see most of the items that are listed there, but gum, candy, electronic gear and cell phones are brought to school by some of our students on a daily basis. Please talk to your children about this. It is important that you and they know that if they bring electronic gear to school, and they take them out of their backpacks during the school day, we will remove it from their possession for the remainder of the day. If this happens a second time, we will

keep the item until the last day of school or until you come to pick it up. While cell phones are allowed in school, they may not be out during the school day. If students violate this policy they run the risk of losing their phone privilege. If students bring gum or candy to school, this will be removed from their possession, also. Please review the other items listed in our handbook as well. It is important that they too, not be brought to school. Also, please note that the school is not responsible for the safety and security of these items if they are brought to school.

### **EXTRA TIME TO READ**

The November school calendar has several early dismissal days and days off for holidays. What a great opportunity for family members to spend some time together sharing stories and books! Try to squeeze in an extra trip to the library.

### **SLEEP MATTERS**

Is your child acting out in school? A study proves that it may be due to not enough sleep. Children (even older ones) need more sleep than we think. This study shows that even, "Small increases in the amount of sleep a child gets can improve behavior at school by a significant amount, while slight decreases in sleep can make them more likely to act out."

So, if your child is acting out in school, putting them to bed an hour earlier may not be a punishment, it may be just what they need to succeed in school!

(This study was published in the journal *Pediatrics* and reported in *The Hartford Courant* on 10/18/12.)



## Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

### ABSENCE NOTES

Please remember that whenever your child is absent from school, for any reason,

they must bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining the reason for their absence. It can be a simple note that states that they were ill.



Even if you call in and report the absence on our absence line, state law says that you must still send in a note when your child returns to school.

#### MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools' does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Manchester Public Schools' is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public Schools' nondiscrimination policies and practices should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools, 45 North School Street Manchester, CT 06042, 860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant  
Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator, Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3452

or

Linda Hodgkins, Coordinator of School Health Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator, Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3324

### PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please use extreme caution when driving a vehicle through the school parking lots and on the streets nearby. In the morning before school and at dismissal time there are many people, both students and adults, walking along the sidewalks and IN the parking lots. Be sure to obey the posted signs.

Those spaces marked for handicapped parking, in both the back parking lot and the front, are only for vehicles displaying a state handicapped tag. Violation of any of the parking lot regulations can result in a costly fine from the Manchester Police Department. The police will focus their attention on school parking lots and the streets surrounding the schools this fall, to insure student safety.

Unfortunately, some vehicles were ticketed last year for violations.

The parking lot regulations are designed to keep our children safe. Please keep this in mind at all times.

Please remember that pick-up of students after school and drop off of students in the morning takes place in our **back parking lot**. School staff is on duty in the morning and afternoon to supervise.

The front parking lot is not to be used for the drop-off or pick-up of students. If you are running late in the morning (after 9:05) you may park in the front lot and walk your student into the school office to sign them in. If you arrive late in the afternoon (after 3:40) you may park in the front lot and come into the school office to sign your student out.



The back parking lot is supervised by school staff from 8:35 – 9:05 every morning and from 3:25 – 3:40 every afternoon. The back doors are locked until 8:35 and after 9:05 so please do not drop a student off outside of that time frame.

## Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

### **ROBERTSON WEB SITE**

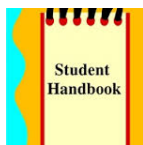
Be sure to check out the Robertson School Web Site! You can access this site at:



[Www.publicschools.manchester.gov](http://www.publicschools.manchester.gov)

Then click on the *Schools* tab, find Robertson and click. It is a user-friendly site filled with helpful school information that includes curriculum outlines, an events calendar, PTA news, photos and much more. We are continuously updating this site and including more and more useful and interesting information.

### **PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**



Our complete Parent/Student Handbook is now available to you electronically on our Robertson Website. To access our website, please go to: [publicschools.manchesterct.gov](http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov). Then click on the Schools tab, find Robertson and click.

In addition to our Parent/Student Handbook, our website contains lots of other information that will be helpful to you throughout the school year. We hope you will visit it often.

If you do not have access to our website at home, we will be happy to provide you with a hard copy of the handbook upon request.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASS**

While we discourage early dismissal of students from class because of the instructional time they lose, we realize that there are times when this is unavoidable – such as a doctor appointment. If you plan to pick your child up before the school day is over we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher. In the note please state the reason your child needs to leave school before the end of the day and what time you will come in to pick them up. Thank you

### **BELL SCHEDULE**



Our school day starts at 9:05 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. The first bell rings at 8:55. At that time, students may walk to their classrooms. The late bell rings at 9:05 at which time the school day begins. If students arrive after 9:05 they are considered tardy and parents need to sign them in to school in the office. Students will be issued a late pass before going to their classroom.

Please be aware that there is no supervision at school before 8:45. Students are not allowed in the building before this time unless they will be eating breakfast. Walkers should plan to arrive at 8:55.

### **BUCKLAND ALLEY**

Access to Robertson through the use of Buckland Alley is prohibited. Only authorized vehicles such as maintenance or trash haulers may use this access to the school. This is not a safe location to pick up or drop off students. When driving on the streets surrounding the school or in our parking lots, please think ***Student Safety First***.



### **Title IX Notice**

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
Phone: 860-647-3595  
Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.



## Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

### School Picture Retakes!

School picture retake/absentee day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th.



### *This is for:*

- \* Any student who was not satisfied with their original portrait. Students must return their complete portrait package to the photographer on retake day.
- \* Students who were absent on picture day.
- \* Any student who did not purchase on the original day and would like to purchase a package.

Order forms will be available in the school office one week prior to retake day.

If you have any additional questions, you may contact Lifetouch directly at (203) 735-5933.

## STEM News: Mrs. Gardner & Ms. Munoz

Kindergarten through second grade students are very excited about STEM. What's the weather? Kindergarteners are learning to answer this question by studying clouds, temperature, precipitation and wind. They are learning how weather affects clothing choices.

In first grade, we are studying light and shadows. Students made shadow puppets and observed how shadows change as they varied the position of the object with respect to the light.

Second graders are studying nutrition. As they learn about healthy and unhealthy foods, they are learning how to make good choices for meals and snacks.

Watch for information on the Science Fair and Invention Convention which all students will have received within the next week.



## Language Arts

Do your kids come home talking about the characters, setting, and problems of the story? Students are having fun reading. During shared reading lessons, students are exposed to many teaching objectives using fiction and non-fiction texts.

- ♦ Using prior knowledge to make and adjust predictions
- ♦ Using repetitive language patterns to predict what might happen next
- ♦ Identifying characters (What the character is doing, saying, and feeling)
- ♦ Identifying setting (location, season, and time of day)
- ♦ Making inferences
- ♦ Retelling simple text/Summarizing
- ♦ Cause & Effect
- ♦ Visualization
- ♦ Fluency

## Math

1, 2, 3 WHAT NUMBER DO YOU SEE? In math, we have been exploring our sense of numbers using fun-filled activities. Our kindergarten classrooms are using a variety of tools to understand numbers. Playdough, dice games, songs, ten frames and books.

### Students need to be able to:

- \* Count objects to 20
- \* Say numbers in order to 100
- \* Pair objects with a number
- \* Compare groups of objects
- \* Write numbers 0-20

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15  
16 17 18 19 20

Number Practice for home: Write the numerals 1-20 on index cards. Have your child name the numeral. Then ask your child to place that number of pennies, buttons, cereal, etc. on the card. Ask your child to compare 2 numbers using greater than, less than, or equal to. In addition, shuffle the index cards and have your child place them in correct numerical order.

## Science/Social Studies

Our trip to Foster Farm was Fall-tastic! What a great place to explore hands-on the signs of fall. How does a pumpkin grow? Why are all the leaves turning orange, yellow and red? We hope our field trip and classroom lessons inspire your child to have conversations like these questions at home.

The students also learned about fire safety with a little help from our local Eighth Utilities Fire Department. The firefighters conducted an outdoor demonstration on how real life fire equipment is used to help keep us safe.



## Reminders/Upcoming Events

- ⇒ No School: 11/3/15, 11/11/15, 11/26/15, 11/27/15
- ⇒ ½ day: 11/25/15
- ⇒ Conferences/Early Dismissal days : 12/1/15, 12/2/15, 12/3/15

### Please practice the following routines with your child:

- ♦ Teach your child to zip/button/tie his or her jacket, pants, or shoes.
- ♦ Review and empty your child's school work from his/her folder daily.
- ♦ Find a quiet space in your home for homework and reading.
- ♦ Remember to send in a note to excuse your child's absence.

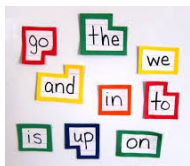


## First Grade: Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Beauregard, Mrs. Rawlins

First graders have been working really hard and are learning many interesting things.

In reading/language arts, we have been reading in our guided reading groups and working cooperatively in literacy centers. We have been teaching the children to think about the book cover, pictures and story line to make good predictions while reading.

The focus has also been on learning to decode and spell words by saying and writing one sound at a time, working on punctuation, digraphs and short vowels. Each week we are introducing several sight words which your child must be able to recognize and spell correctly.



In math, we are working on addition and subtraction facts within 10. We are focusing on using strategies, including counting on, doubles and counting back.

In science and social studies, we learned about fire safety, and will continue with Social Thinking.



Our field trip to Hurst Farm in Andover was terrific! We went on a wagon ride and got to feed the cows, eat cookies and pick a pumpkin to take home!

Students have also been busy writing through the use of a program called "Writer's Workshop." During this time, writers meet for a mini-lesson with the class and then they have the opportunity to practice the skill they learned. Teachers are then able to conference with students as they are writing.

The first of the six units are called small moments. Small moments are things that you do or that have happened to you. Some examples are: tripping outside or the doorbell ringing at home. Writers then take this small moment and stretch it out across three pages.

Ask your writer what they have written about in their writer's notebook!

We wish you all a wonderful fall season and hope you have time to enjoy the beautiful colors, the nice weather and some delicious pumpkin seeds with your family.



## 2nd Grade: Mrs. Osella, Mrs. Mundy, Mr. Jones, Ms. Ruggiero

The second grade teachers have completed an individual assessment with each student to determine their current reading level. We have now grouped together students with like needs for guided reading groups. Students are learning strategies to use before, during and after reading to improve understanding, including examining the parts of the story (characters, setting, main events, problem and solution).

This year, the second graders will continue to participate in Foundations Level 2. Foundations provides a systematic and explicit approach to reading and spelling with phonics. Students are applying these strategies to understand new words in the stories they read.

Students are learning about author's craft in writing, examining the work of master authors to learn strategies to improve their own work. They are discovering that powerful words and imagery make their stories more interesting to read. They have also begun learning to edit their stories for grammar, spelling and punctuation. We will be publishing our stories soon!



We are continuing to work on a science unit about nutrition. The students are learning about the 5 food groups and how the food groups can keep them healthy. At the end of the unit, the students will be able to make good food choices. Please remember to pack ONE HEALTHY snack for your student every day. (i.e., apple, banana, orange, pretzels, yogurt, etc.)

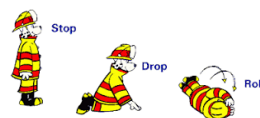
In math, students are continuing to explore various addition and subtraction strategies to build fluency within 20. The strategies that students are encouraged to use are doubles, make 10, fact families and counting on/counting back. One way that parents can help their children in math at home is to review basic facts every night for at least 10 minutes so that your student will become fluent with their addition and subtraction.

Also, FastMath is a great resource that helps reinforce the skills we are covering in math.

The children will also have many opportunities to apply and extend their understanding of the two operations as they solve a variety of story problems. We will have timed 0 – 20 addition and subtraction fact tests every month to check their progress. The facts should be mastered by May.

This month, we had a wonderful informative assembly about Fire Safety. Here is a list of fire prevention strategies:

- ⇒ In the event of a fire: Get out fast! Crawl so that you will be under the smoke.
- ⇒ Yell, "Fire, Fire!" to alert others. Test each door with the back of your hand before attempting to open it.
- ⇒ What to do if your clothing catches fire: Stop and shout, "Help!" Drop to the floor and cover your face. Roll around to put out the flames.
- ⇒ Be Prepared: Install smoke detectors and be sure to check them every month.
- ⇒ Plan a fire escape route and practice it with your family. Agree on an outside meeting place. Remember to call 911!
- ⇒ About matches and lighters: Stay away from matches and lighters. If you see matches or a lighter, tell an adult.



F.Y.I.

Students, please be sure that you are reading at home every night. You may choose to read by yourself, with a sibling, parent, or with someone special. Find a comfortable place to read where you will be able to concentrate on your story. Keep a piece of paper and a pencil near to you so you can write down words you don't know or things you want to talk about when you are done reading.

Remember: The more you read, the smarter you will be!!



## 3rd Grade: Mr. Pepin, Mrs. Case, Mr. Moynihan

It has been a really **great month** with your sons and daughters. Each day, we have seen our scholars working hard and rising to the very **high expectations** we have for them. This month, we have been building our **trust in the team** while getting down and dirty with **rigorous academics**.

### Reading Workshop-

We were very busy readers in October! Students learned and applied many skills to help them become stronger readers and thinkers! Here is a run-down of what third graders learned during **Reading Workshop**:



- \* Good readers give themselves **comprehension checks** to make sure they know what is going on in their books.
- \* We worked on **envisioning**, making a “mind movie” or mental image in our heads as we read.
- \* We made **predictions** that not only tell the main parts of the story, but also included details about how those things might happen.
- \* We used **context clues** to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- \* We worked on understanding **figurative language**.

Please encourage your third grader to read each night, and write down their reading in their reading log!

### Writing Workshop-

Third graders have been working really hard writing true stories! They have been delving into their memory banks and using their own experiences to craft stories that have:

- ⇒ An attention grabbing **lead**
- ⇒ Lots of **dialogue**
- ⇒ Writing “across pages” (**paragraphing**)
- ⇒ **Sensory details** that describe the character’s experience within the setting
- ⇒ **Sequence** (all events in order)

Our third graders are fired up and ready to go become the next generation of awesome authors! The third grade teachers are so proud that sharing stories and celebrating great writing has become a part of our daily lives at school.

### Mathematics-

Our third grade “mathletes” have been training hard and building their math muscles in the following areas:



- Learning about the **properties of addition** (commutative, identity, and associative)
- **Rounding** to the nearest 10 and 100
- **Estimating** Sums and Differences
- Two-Step **Word Problems**
- **Mental math** strategies for adding and subtracting

Our scholars have been working in small groups and helping each member of our learning team become better mathematicians. Using math vocabulary and language to explain our thinking has helped us get a stronger understanding of what we know about numbers.

### Social Thinking-

Our social thinking curriculum has helped our scholars become more self-aware and emotionally intelligent. We have developed a common language to communicate:

- ◇ What **expected/unexpected behaviors** are for various situations at school and in life?
- ◇ What we do to create **comfortable thoughts** and feelings in others?
- ◇ What we may be doing that could also create **uncomfortable thoughts** and feelings in others?

This has helped us be more aware of our behavioral choices and build skills to help us be more mature, responsible scholars.



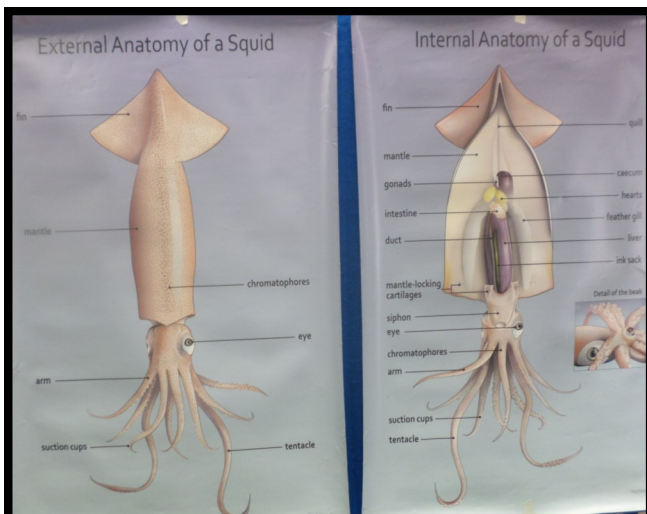
## 4th Grade: Mrs. Blundo, Ms. Ortiz & Mrs. Gatmaitan

October has been very busy for fourth grade! We have continued with our Reader's Workshop and students are identifying theme in traditional literature and analyzing characters. Students have built their stamina and are now reading for longer periods of time! Please make sure students are reading at least 20 minutes every night.

In writing, students are working on their personal narratives.

In math, we have finished our first topic on place value and have moved into adding and subtracting with larger numbers. Our next topic will be multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. Knowing the basic facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) will be very important moving forward. Please continue to have students practice these basic facts at home.

Students can practice using flashcards as well as online through MobyMax.com, Xtramath.org and FastMath (K-8 Resource Page).





## 4th Grade: Mrs. Blundo, Ms. Ortiz & Mrs. Gatmaitan

This month has been very exciting for science! Mystic Aquarium's outreach program came to Robertson and students were able to dissect squid.

Students also dissected owl pellets and are now working on putting the bones back together to help decide what animal(s) the owl ate. Ask your child what animal they discovered!

In social thinking, students are still working on being "social detectives" and using their tool box (their eyes, ears, brain and heart) to think about how others feel based on their own actions or words. We will be planning parent workshops soon so please look out for information coming home in your Wednesday Folders.

We hope that you and your child have had a great start to fourth grade. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Our emails are listed below!

Rosina Blundo	<a href="mailto:rbrini@mpspride.org">rbrini@mpspride.org</a>
Nikki Ortiz	<a href="mailto:nortiz@mpspride.org">nortiz@mpspride.org</a>
Regina Gatmaitan	<a href="mailto:b25rgatm@mpspride.org">b25rgatm@mpspride.org</a>



**I ♥  
FOURTH  
GRADE**



## 5th Grade: Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Frye, Mrs. Kearney

The month of November brings more learning, fun, and community in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We have already accomplished so much in the months of September and October. Our social thinking curriculum is coming along well! New skills and thrills are yet to come!!

### Language Arts:

We will continue working with both Lucy Calkin's Reading Workshop and the common core standards to make our fifth graders even better readers than they already are!

We are also learning how to write comprehensive responses about our reading with sentences that are long and strong. In writing, we are learning how to write personal narratives. We are focusing on how to pinpoint one memory or scene from our lives step by step. Ask your child what they have accomplished! Have them share their stories with you to show off what they've done!!

### Math:

The students have been diligently working on their new Envision Math Program. They have been able to work with the digital Envision on their Chromebooks. They love having their own Chromebooks and it has made it easier to use technology in the classroom.

We completed multiplication 3 digit by 2 digit. Another topic we have worked on is 2 digit division. The fifth grade will continue working on real world word problems. Students continue to be tested weekly on their multiplication and division facts. During November, we will be learning more about place value.

*HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!*



### Science:

#### Mystic Aquarium:

Mystic Aquarium came to visit and teach us about the Long Island Sound. Students learned the difference between freshwater, saltwater and sandy marshes. We had so much fun holding the different types of invertebrates. Ask your child what their favorite crab was after our "hands-on" water activity! They did such a great job holding them! Eeek! Watch those claws!

The students have also completed a unit on the Solar System. They were able to do research, make their own PowerPoint slide and give a presentation on a specific planet. They did a fantastic job!

In November, the students will be working on the unit of Light.





As requested by the kindergarten teachers, we have been reviewing geometric shapes.

By using geometric shapes and naming them, we have drawn many people standing or kicking a soccer ball. We also have been drawing houses and the Taj Mahal!



First grade artists have been making leaf collages, some of which you may have seen around the school. Students used oil pastels, tempa paint, collage methods and their natural design and placement ability.

Second graders learned about sculpture, mixed media and made sculptured button trees.

Third grade artists have been practicing drawing various trees. I like how some students are assisting other students in learning how to make trees. We will be practicing with watercolors in making our background for final trees.

Fourth graders are working on their foil underwater scenes. They are doing a super job!

The fifth grade students are finishing up their Fire Prevention Posters. They are working on their lettering and design while making sure their poster shows something important about fire prevention. We are also making sure the posters can be viewed from a distance.



### **Robertson English Language Learners**

The English Language Learners at Robertson School have been hard at work with Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Kubinski. Some of us are learning about rhyming words. Some are learning new letters and sounds. Some of us are learning position words: top, bottom, left and right. Some are learning all about fall. All of us are learning to make stories with pictures or "mind movies" and write about them.

So far this year, we have 60 English Language Learners with 14 different languages.

We are getting ready to share our cultures at the Manchester Public Schools International Conference on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at Manchester High School from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We welcome all members of the Robertson community to join us for activities, music, door prizes, flu vaccines, child care, international lunch, exhibits, and workshops. Special activities for 3-8 graders!



## Music: Ms. Grieco & Mr. Hayden

This month in Room 8, students are working on the concepts of fast and slow (Tempo), loud and soft (Dynamics), major and minor (Mode), as well as rhythm and solfege.

Musicians in Kindergarten through grade 5 will be working with various pitched and unpitched percussion instruments to experiment with sound waves, vibration and high and low pitch.



Students will also be working on their rhythmic and solfege knowledge using two iPad apps called “Monkey Drum” and “Storybots.” These apps are free from the app store, so please feel free to get them on your home Apple devices and your students can show you what we are working on in music class.

Have a musical month!



## Manchester Public Library

**Build-It Book Club** – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Sign up for the first meeting of Manchester Public Library’s new parent-child book club for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

We will discuss the book *Yoda’s Secret Missions* and each child will build a LEGO® Star Wars set to take home.

**Registration is required** and begins October 26<sup>th</sup> for Manchester residents and October 28<sup>th</sup> for non-residents. Both child and parent must read the book to participate.

Call [\(860\) 645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more info or to sign up.

**Bilingual Storytime** – Celebrate the discovery of Puerto Rico with a bilingual story-time presented by members of the Association of Puerto Ricans and Latinos United of Manchester. This special story-time will take place on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more info.

Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040



## Physical Education: Ms. White & Ms. Falkowski

Students in Kindergarten, first and second grades have completed our Pathways units. The students were learning various relationships and pathways through stations. These included curvy, straight, zig-zag, under, over, into and between.



We then moved on to messy backyard. This game is one of the student's favorites! At the end of October, we played a game called "Haunted House" where the students have to try to run into the house to get a treat without being tagged.



In grades three through five, students just completed all of their fitness tests (woohoo!). The students took four tests: push-up, curl-up, PACER, and sit & reach. The students are now playing the "Haunted House" game, but with different variations.

New All-Stars were picked the last week in October to be recognized for the month of November!

## Library: Mr. Hadge & Mrs. Courtney

Many children have asked about the book fair. The PTA-sponsored book fair will run from November 30th through December 4th. If you would like to help out at that event please let the PTA know.



Have you ever thought about volunteering in the library? We can always use help shelving books, preparing books, and assisting students as they look for books. If you have some free time we would love to have you help out in the library. Please stop down, write a note, or email Mr. Hadge at [b47shadg@mpspride.org](mailto:b47shadg@mpspride.org) if you are interested.

Please help your child in remembering to return their books on library day. We don't like disappointing children by telling them they can't take out a new book because their previous one was not returned. Thank you!



If a book is lost or returned in unusable condition we will send a note to let you know the cost. Generally the cost is \$4 per book. Thanks for all your help!

(Note: You can access many useful websites, including those often used by your children in school, by visiting the K-8 Resource page on the web. Bookmark it for future use: <http://mpspride.org/page.cfm?p=1220>



## Fire Prevention Week 2015: Eighth Utilities District

Students learned so much during Fire Prevention Week! On Monday, October 19th, firefighters from the 8th Utilities District (and a few minions) arrived with firetrucks to share with students the importance of fire prevention rules.



The first lesson they learned was to call "911" in the event of an emergency. Students also learned to "Stop, Drop & Roll" and how to safely escape from a fire by crawling under dangerous smoke.



They had the pleasure of meeting Smokey the Bear and got to watch Firefighter Pat climb down a rope from the firetruck bucket which was VERY high up in the air!

